

## Description of a new species of Cassidae from Saya de Malha Bank

(Mollusca, Gastropoda)

By Heinrich Mühlhäusser und Manfred Parth

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*Semicassis bondarevi* n. sp. is described and compared with the most similar species *Semicassis microstoma* von Martens and *Semicassis umbilicata* (Pease).

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### Introduction

Saya de Malha Bank belongs to the Mascarene Plateau in the Western Indian Ocean, which extends from the Seychelles to Mauritius Island. In the last decades explorations, mainly by Russian vessels, have brought up numerous molluscs, partially new to science.

### *Semicassis bondarevi*, spec nov.

Figs 1, 2

Types. Holotype: 49.6 mm x 31 mm, Saya de Malha Bank, dredged in 80 m on sand-silt bottom by R/V Gordy 1989 (Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Eing.Kat.Nr. 1876). - Paratype 1: 54mm x 34 mm, same locality and data (Coll. Igor Bondarev, Sevastopol, Ucraina); Paratype 2: 61 mm x 37,3 mm, off Mozambique in 400 m by Russian trawler (Coll. Mühlhäusser, Freiburg).

Type locality. Saya de Malha Bank, Mascarene Plateau.

### Description of holotype

Shell evenly ovate and very thin. Protoconch with 3 bulimoid whorls, teleoconch with 5 whorls. Suture incised, channelled on the body whorl. Spiral sculpture consists of 6 spiral cords on the first postnuclear whorl and 20 on the body whorl.

Secondary cordlets between the main spiral cords, but extending only from suture to periphery of body whorl. Radial sculpture shows numerous fine radial ribs, forming granules when crossing the spiral cords, giving a tessellated appearance to the early postnuclear whorls. Radial sculpture diminishes on last whorl.

True umbilicus and false umbilicus deep, open and large. Aperture about 2/3 of total length of shell. Inner lip weakly callused, columellar shield evenly granulated, parietal wall with a weak glaze, showing the spiral cords of the preceding whorl. Outer lip with 21 teeth, on the channelled outer side the spiral sculpture continues up to the edge.

Color chalky white with a light brownish hue on the dorsum.



Fig. 1. *Semicassis bondarevi*, spec. nov. Holotype, 49.3 x 29.6 mm. Dorsal (left) and ventral view (right).

#### Remarks

Nothing is known about the range of *Semicassis bondarevi*, but it is probably confined to the Western Indian Ocean. Till now it has not been found at the East African coast.

The new species in its general shape resembles *Semicassis microstoma* von Martens, 1903, but can be easily distinguished by its smaller size, its thinner shell and leighter weight, more pronounced sculpture and the lack of color bands.

*Semicassis umbilicata* (Pease, 1860), an endemic species from the Hawaiian chain to Midway Island, possesses a very similar inner lip to *S. bondarevi* n. sp., but can be distinguished at a glance in all his other morphological details.

In the Saya de Malha Bank 2 further species of *Semicassis* have been found, i. e. *Semicassis* c. f. *bisulcata* (Schubert & Wagner, 1829) and *Semicassis* c. f. *bulla* (Habe, 1961). The 2 specimens from the Saya de Malha Bank figured in this paper are both very thick shelled and possess a strong and high final varix.

**Etymology.** We dedicate this species to Igor Bondarev, Sevastopol, Ucraina, who kindly donated the holotype.

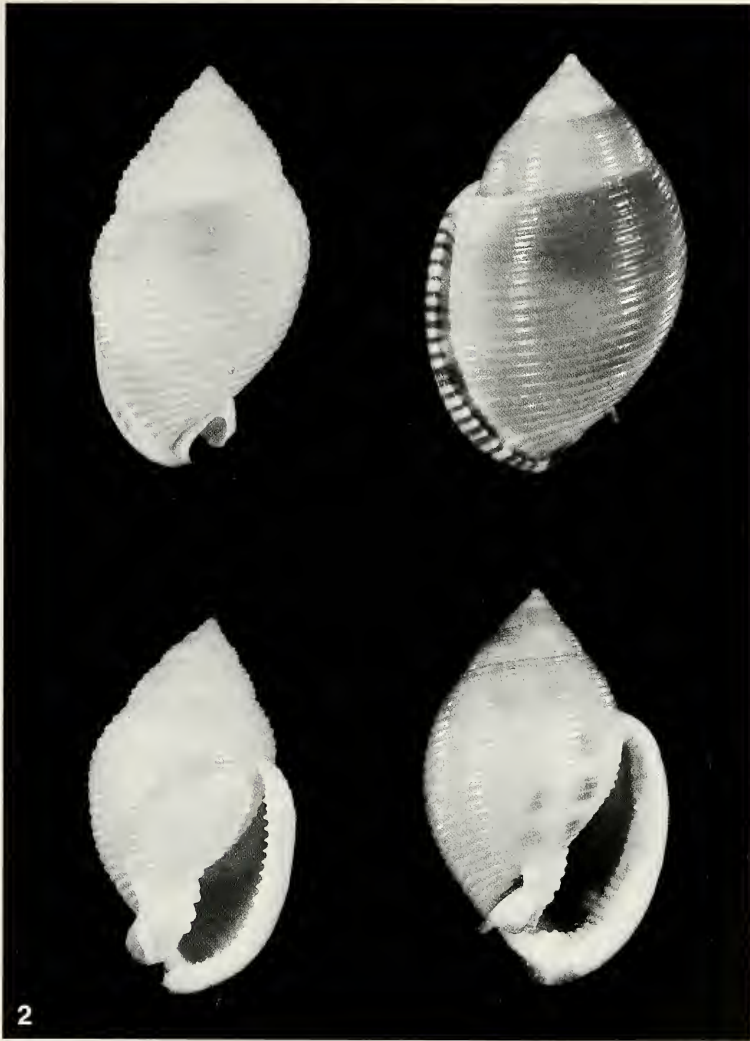
#### References

Bondarev I. & Röckel 1992. The shells of Saya de Malha Bank.- *La Conchiglia* 262 (1): 21-34

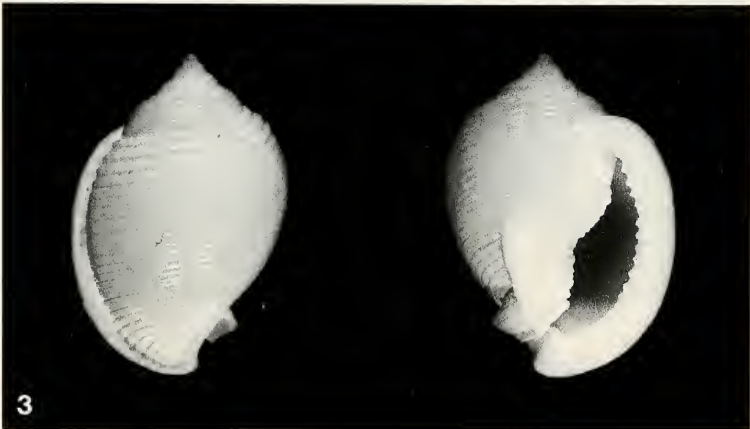
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Fig. 2. Left. *Semicassis bondarevi*, spec. nov. Paratype 1. Right. *Semicassis microstoma* (von Martens, 1903), off Somalia. Dorsal (above) and ventral views (below).

Fig. 3. *Semicassis* cf. *bisulcata* (Schubert & Wagner, 1829), Saya de Malha Bank, 29.9 mm. Dorsal (left) and ventral view (right).



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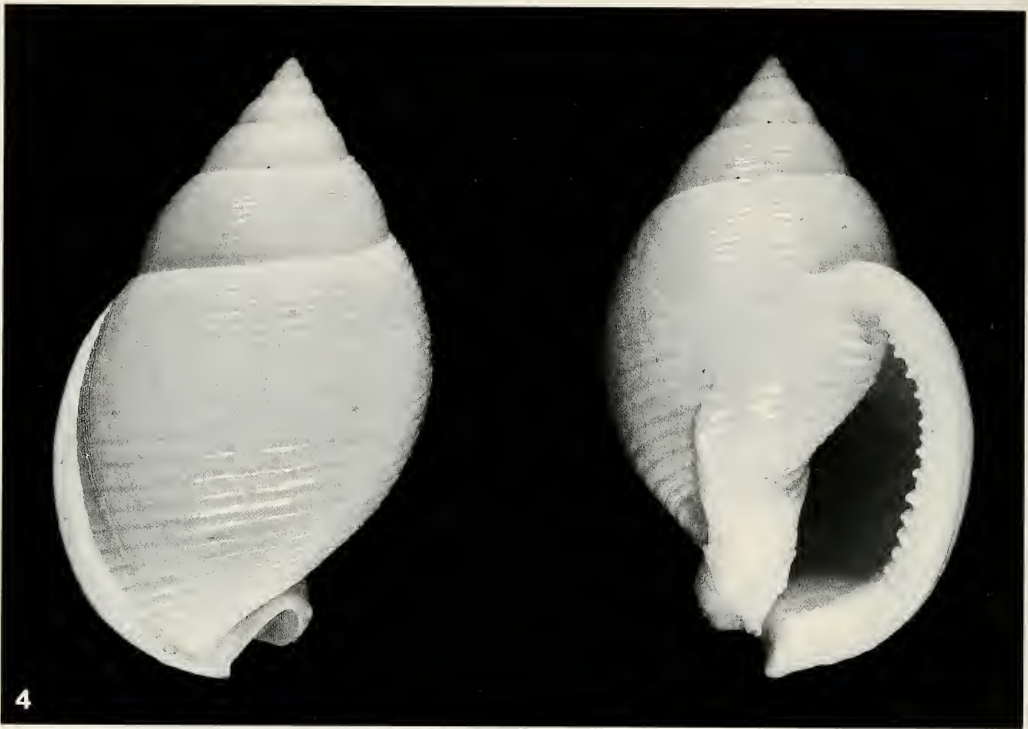


Fig. 4. *Semicassis* cf. *bulla* (Habe, 1961), Saya de Malha Bank, 56.2 mm. Dorsal (left) and ventral view (right).

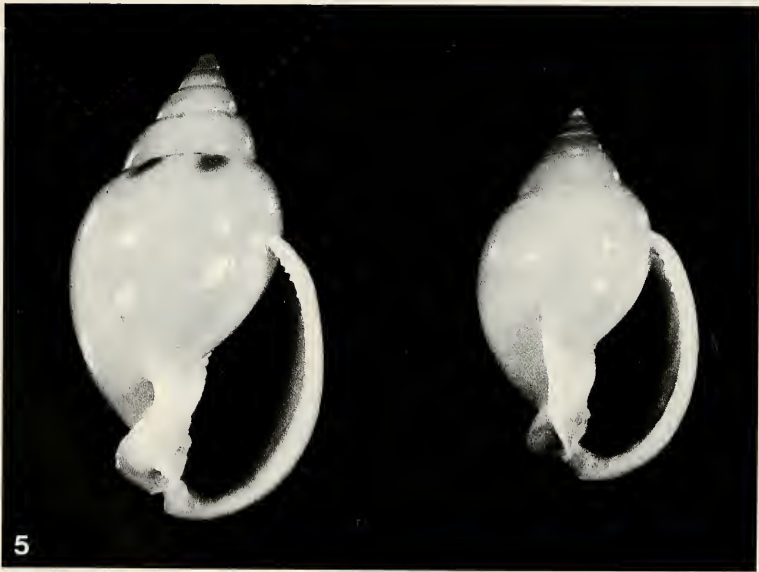


Fig. 5. Left. *Semicassis glabrata* (Dunker, 1852), Cebu, Philippines, 62.3 mm. Right. *Semicassis bulla* (Habe, 1961), Cebu, Philippines, 50 mm. Both ventral views.